

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
4/12/23

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Jon Mortimer (JM), Jill Palmore (JP) and Christine Syska (CS)

Absent: Terri Patterson and Tara Simopoulos

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Motion to approve draft minutes from January 11, 2023 & February 8, 2023 by JM, second by JP, motion passed (4-Yes, 0-No).

Public Comment - None

Correspondence – None

CECS Updates

KR provided general update on repairs. Budget presented to Town Council, no real issues. FW projects led to the most discussion. KR provided update to the 2 nights of registration and the issue surrounding the Little Cubs problem.

Youth

Susan & Bethany working in sync. Right now Bethany 3 days a week, no weekends due to basketball done. Will resume weekends for lacrosse. Also met with Bethany and we changed scheduled to MWF and Sundays with lacrosse. Better flow and communication. Overall 2 nights of registration did go well. Due to some big waitlists Susan adding classes again where she can. Some great interest in Cycling, Ultimate Frisbee, Knitting, Sewing, Cooking, Jewelry Making and Art. Summer Rec camp numbers looking very strong and we may add to some weeks of Teen Scene. AE shared some of the concern she heard about Teen Scene weeks not matching up. We didn't offer the first week we are offering Adventure Camp and Little Cubs. Will need better communication if we do the same next year. Kelly is hiring for summer so we will see how that goes. She has a job fair at the high school 5/2.

Adults & Seniors

Classes have resumed at CECS which is wonderful! Still a few repairs to be finished. Pickleball is back inside and outside and as popular as ever. Classes filled with waitlists. New offering – Beginner Italian, filled! Another add on is drop in painting. This was something we did pre-covid so very happy to have this back. The mirrors for the Activity Room have been ordered, just waiting for arrival. Committee discussion on tap impact to new floors. Suggestions?

Jane is continuing with Home Heating Assistance through Friday. The senior programs continue to be a challenge however some of the summer trips numbers looking very positive. KR explained the issue with the Word Press fillable forms and working on a solution. She continues with the social media postings. JP thanked us for the updated postings including the pool and fitness center. Her friend was very appreciative.

Pool & Fitness

Swim lessons continue to be a challenge because everyone wants Saturday mornings but we have to look at how many in the pool as a whole at that time. 6 slots per class fills very quickly. In the fall we are going to look at weekday afternoons or evenings. KR shared the change of CMA to Bluefish. Fees being addressed as they haven't changed since 2015. All school swim teams have completed so more lap swim time opening. We are offering some additional Open Swims with the inflatable during school vacation week. Something we have been asked for in the past but classes and times didn't work. We have budgeted for a new inflatable which will pay for itself in one year. Limping along and Andrew fixing as needed. Special Olympics went great on April 7th! Thrilled to be able to offer.

Cape Care

KR provided an update to the Public Pre-K. We were able to grandfather in our existing Cape Care/Cape Elizabeth students who fit the criteria and filled the 30 available slots. There will be some minor renovations (adding sinks, and a bathroom). The grant will cover the work. JM shared some concerns he had regarding the Pre-K sign up. Folks felt the communication was very poor. KR shared some of the conversations she had with some. Additionally, the 3 & 4 year old room is full. Before and after is full on most days, Kelly is working through the requests.

Fort Williams/PHL Update

Parking kiosks and portable toilets out and Chris Cutter is back at the park. Rangers begin on 4/10 and Greeters 5/1. Hiring for both if know or hear if anyone is interested. KR brought committee up to date on projects in the budget. JM shared that folks are upset that no baby swings at the playground. KR will follow up on this. We hired a new employee at PHL, Denise Dixon and she will cover opposite weekends to Rosanne and a couple days during the week. Hoping to be open 10-4 most days. KR shared that always looking for additional volunteers to help make that a reality. KR and Rosanne have been working on purchasing merchandise for the gift shop and items being delivered. KR provided update on the work in the museum and the hardscaping repairs. All should be ready to go on Memorial Day weekend. .

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice